

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for collecting and organizing data comprising:
 - a video camera for capturing video images of transactions;
 - an input device for collecting transaction data associated with the transactions; and
 - a database management system for organizing the video images and the transaction data into a digital database;
 - wherein the video images are stored in the digital database as digital video images; ~~and~~
 - wherein the digital video images are associated in the digital database with the transaction data such that the digital video images of a transaction can be retrieved based on the transaction data of the transaction;
 - wherein the video camera is configured to capture a first video image during a first time period;
 - wherein the database management system is configured to determine, after the video camera has captured the first video image, whether or not the input device collected first transaction data of a first transaction during the first time period; and
 - wherein the database management system is configured to store, if it is determined that the input device collected the first transaction data during the first time period, the first video image in the digital database as a first digital video image associated with the first transaction data.
2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the transaction data includes time data.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the transaction data includes date data.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the transaction data includes monetary data.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the video images are captured based upon a clock signal.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a terminal for allowing an operator to input queries into the digital database and receive the digital video images and the transaction data in response to the queries.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the transactions are vehicle toll collection transactions.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the transactions are financial transactions.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the transactions are retail transactions.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a transaction based database comprising:

capturing an image of the transaction as the transaction occurs;

collecting data associated with the transaction; and

storing the image and the data into a digital database, the image stored into the digital database as a digital image associated with the data;

wherein the image of the transaction is captured either before the data associated with the transaction are collected or at a same time that the data associated with the transaction are collected; and

wherein a query into the digital database using a portion of the data acts as a key for retrieving the digital image associated with the data.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

triggering the capturing of the image based on a clock signal.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

retrieving the digital image and the data from the digital database in response to the query.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

displaying the digital image and the data on a monitor for an operator to view.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the operator makes adjustments to the data stored in the digital database.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

displaying ~~the~~ a next digital image and associated data on the monitor in response to the operator issuing a request to view the next digital image.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

displaying ~~the~~ a next digital image and associated data on the monitor in response to the operator issuing a request to view ~~the~~ a next transaction in time.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising;

displaying ~~the~~ a next digital image and associated data on the monitor in response to the operator issuing a request to view ~~the~~ a next transaction with a particular value in a particular data field.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for collecting data about a transaction comprising:

a camera for capturing images of documents related to the transaction;

a trigger system for triggering the camera to capture the images, said trigger system comprising;

at least one light emitter that emits at least one beam of light; and

at least one light detector for detecting the at least one beam of light, said trigger system configured to trigger the camera to capture the images based on an output of the at least one light detector;

a computer system for associating additional data with each image; and

a digital storage system for storing the images as digital images and for storing the additional data,

wherein the digital storage system accepts and processes queries and presents a plurality of views of the digital images and additional data in response to the queries.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein the trigger system ~~is comprised of~~ further comprises:

~~at least one light emitter that emits at least one beam of light;~~

~~at least one light detector for detecting the at least one beam of light; and~~

a pulse generator which outputs a pulse in response to the at least one light detector detecting an object breaking the at least one light beam.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the object is a financial document.

24. (Currently Amended) A database system comprising;

a camera for capturing a first and a second image, the first and the second image related to a first transaction;

an input device for collecting first transaction data associated with the first transaction;

a generator for generating an identifier; and

a storage medium for storing the first transaction data and the first image and the second image wherein the first transaction data and the first image and the second image are associated via the identifier.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The database system of claim ~~25~~ 24 wherein the input device includes a vehicle toll collector.

27. (Currently Amended) The database system of claim ~~25~~ 24 wherein the input device includes a bar code reader.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1,

wherein video images and transaction data are stored in the digital database for each of a plurality of transactions;

wherein the database management system may receive a query to search for a first subset of transaction data that have a particular characteristic; and

wherein a first subset of video images that are associated with the first subset of transaction data can be retrieved by the database management system and be arranged to be displayed in an order in response to the query.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the particular characteristic of the first subset of transaction data is at least one of an unusual occurrence, a class mis-match, and a violation.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1,

wherein the database management system can process a query and retrieve a ~~first~~ second digital video image in response to the query; and

wherein the ~~first~~ second digital video image can be sent over a digital network to a client terminal for viewing.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a transaction based database, the method comprising the steps of:

capturing a video image during a time period;

determining, after the video image has been captured during the time period, if whether or not a transaction occurred during the time period;

saving the video image in the transaction based database ~~in response to a determination if~~ it is determined that the transaction occurred during the time period;

saving transaction data associated with the transaction in the transaction based database in the event that the transaction occurred during the time period; and

associating the video image with the transaction data in the transaction based database ~~in the event~~ if it is determined that the transaction occurred during the time period.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of capturing a video image during a time period, comprises the step of:

capturing a video image during a time period in response to a clock signal.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of:

retrieving at least one of the video image and the transaction data in response to a query.

35. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying video images related to transactions, the method comprising the steps of:

capturing video images for each of a plurality of transactions;

collecting transaction data for each of the plurality of transactions;

associating the video images for each of the plurality of transactions with the transaction data of the corresponding transaction;

retrieving, in response to a query that indicates a particular transaction data characteristic, a subset of the video images that are associated with transaction data having the particular transaction data characteristic; and

displaying the retrieved subset of the video images in an order;

wherein the video images for each of the plurality of transactions are captured either before the transaction data of the corresponding transaction are collected or at a same time that the transaction data of the corresponding transaction are collected.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of retrieving, in response to a query that indicates a particular transaction data characteristic, a subset of the video images that are associated with transaction data having the particular transaction data characteristic, comprises the step of:

retrieving, in response to a query, a subset of the video images that are associated with transaction data reflecting at least one of an unusual occurrence, a class mis-match, and a violation.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of displaying the retrieved subset of the video images in an order, comprises the step of:

displaying the retrieved subset of the video images in chronological order according to when the transactions associated with the video images occurred, the retrieved subset of the video images displayed without any intervening images.

38. (New) The system of claim 1,

wherein the database management system is configured to discard the first video image if it is determined that the input device did not collect the first transaction data during the first time period.

39. (New) The system of claim 1,

wherein the database management system is configured to not store the first video image if it is determined that the input device did not collect the first transaction data during the first time period.

40. (New) The system of claim 1,

wherein the video camera is directed at a lane of vehicle traffic; and
wherein the transactions are vehicle toll collection transactions.

41. (New) The method of claim 12,

wherein the image of the transaction is captured before the data associated with the transaction are collected.

42. (New) The database system of claim 24,

wherein the camera is capable of capturing the first image and the second image before the input device collects the first transaction data associated with the first transaction.

43. (New) The database system of claim 24,
wherein the camera is capable of capturing the first image and the second image at a same time that the input device collects the first transaction data associated with the first transaction.
44. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of saving the video image, comprises:
saving the video image in the transaction based database only if it is determined that the transaction occurred during the time period.
45. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of saving the video image, comprises:
saving the video image in the transaction based database if it is determined that the transaction occurred during the time period; and
discarding the video image if it is determined that the transaction did not occur during the time period.
46. (New) The method of claim 35,
wherein the video images for each of the plurality of transactions are captured before the transaction data of the corresponding transaction are collected.